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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/764,841	01/26/2004	John F. Boylan	01035.0033-01	9783
72207	7590	10/31/2007	EXAMINER	
ABBOTT CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEMS INC./ FINNEGAN HENDERSON L.L.P. 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20001			SEVERSON, RYAN J	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3731				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
10/31/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/764,841	BOYLAN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Ryan Severson	3731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 August 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6 and 15-20 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-6 and 15-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 20 February 2007 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/15/2007
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 15 August 2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsugita et al. (5,910,154) in view of Mitose et al. (5,885,381).**
Tsugita et al. (hereinafter Tsugita) reference discloses the invention substantially as claimed, including a self-expanding strut assembly (54) including a superelastic alloy (see column 8, lines 48-50) and a filter element (60) disposed on the strut assembly (see figures 6A and 6B). However, Tsugita reference does not disclose the superelastic alloy includes a ternary element. Attention is drawn to Mitose et al. (hereinafter Mitose) reference, which teaches a superelastic alloy can have a ternary element to reduce the

stress hysteresis and improve hot workability in the device (see column 3, lines 51-56) as compared to a simple nickel titanium alloy without a ternary element (compare graphs in figures 2 and 4). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the nickel-titanium strut assembly of Tsugita reference with the alloy of Mitose having a ternary element (palladium) to reduce the stress hysteresis and improve hot workability in the device.

4. Further regarding claim 1, it can be seen in figure 2 that the loading plateau of an alloy without the ternary element is around 400 MPa and in figure 4 it can be seen that the loading plateau of an alloy with the ternary element is approximately 300 MPa. The hysteresis is much lower in the alloy with the ternary element than the alloy without, which is the entire teaching and purpose of Mitose reference (see column 3, lines 20-31).

5. Regarding claim 2, the system of Tsugita reference discloses a sheath at least partially covers the filter element when it is in its collapsed configuration (see column 12, lines 28-30).

6. Regarding claim 4, the strut assembly of Tsugita reference has a conical shape with a first base and the filter has a conical shape with a second base, and the bases are joined (see figure 6A at ref. numeral 58, or see figure 6B at ref. numeral 56). The bases are interpreted to be the tips of the strut assembly and the filter.

7. Regarding claims 6, 16, and 17, the alloy of Mitose is preferably 5 to 9% ternary element (palladium), 50% titanium, and 41 to 45% nickel (see column 3, lines 51-56).

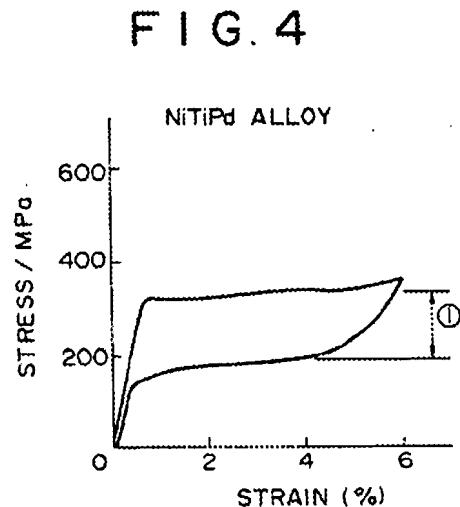
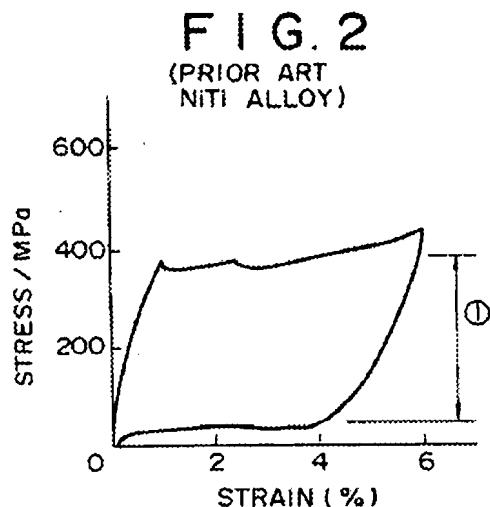
By this composition, when looking in table 1, the transformation temperature (Af) is 25°C, which is less than human body temperature and also less than 45°C.

8. Regarding claim 15, the alloy of Mitose is a shape memory or superelastic alloy.
9. Regarding claims 18 and 19, the ternary element is palladium.
10. Regarding claim 20, Tsugita in view of Mitose discloses the self-expanding strut assembly with a filter element and superelastic alloy with 50 percent titanium, 41 to 45% nickel, and 5 to 9% palladium (see paragraphs 6, 7, and 10 above).
11. **Claims 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsugita et al. (5,910,154) in view of Mitose et al. (5,885,381) as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of Clark et al. (5,713,853).** The combination of Tsugita with Mitose does not disclose that the assembly is cut from a tube with truncated diamond shape openings. Attention is drawn to Clark et al. reference, which teaches a shaft can be cut with a laser (see column 11, lines 25-26) to form the desired structure with accuracy. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to shape the strut members with the diamond shape pattern, as disclosed by Tsugita reference and shown in figures 6A-6B, by laser cutting, as taught by Clark et al. reference, to form the desired structure with accuracy.

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments filed 15 August 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant has argued that the combination of Tsugita et al. with Mitose et al. in the previous office action would not have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art because Mitose reference does not teach reducing the stress hysteresis by lowering the loading plateau stress. Examiner acknowledges applicants assertion that the unloading plateau stress is raised to reduce the hysteresis. However, Mitose reference at no point states that the loading stress remains the same between an alloy of only nickel-titanium (as shown in figure 2 of Mitose reference) and an alloy of nickel, titanium, and palladium (as shown in figure 4 of Mitose reference). Shown below is each figure. It can clearly be seen that the loading plateau stress is lower in the alloy having the ternary element (well below 400 MPa) than the alloy without the ternary element (at or above 400 MPa). Therefore, the reduction of the stress hysteresis as taught by Mitose reference is at least in part due to the reduction in the loading plateau. Applicant's claims do not require the unloading plateau remain constant between the two alloys, and therefore the argument that the unloading plateau is raised in Mitose reference is essentially moot. Further, applicant does not require the stress hysteresis reduction is due *solely* to the lowering of the loading plateau.



Conclusion

13. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the application prior to the entry of the submission under 37 CFR 1.114 and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the application prior to entry under 37 CFR 1.114. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action after the filing of a request for continued examination and the submission under 37 CFR 1.114. See MPEP § 706.07(b).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

14. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan Severson whose telephone number is (571) 272-3142. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00 - 5:30.

16. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Todd Manahan can be reached on (571) 272-4713. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

17. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

R.S.
Ryan Severson
October 24, 2007


Todd E. Manahan
SPE 3731